



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR CITY OF WINTERS

**WINTERS, TEXAS, March 9, 2006--** Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced the City of Winters was selected to receive funding for two projects through the agency's Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program. The City will receive \$34,230 to purchase new bunker gear which will increase the safety of firefighters and enhance their firefighting abilities. Another project, funded at the same time, will provide the City with \$33,000 to purchase a portable sewer pump valuable during a power failure in order to prevent contaminating nearby streams.

"USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Programs help rural communities keep pace with the needs of their rising populations," said Daniel. "Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

In Fiscal Year 2005, \$31.8 million in Community Facility direct and guaranteed loans and over \$900,000 in grants were obligated in Texas. Funds are used to enhance the quality of life for residents of rural areas by providing the means for construction, expansion, or enhancement of community facilities, telecommunication and distance education programs, and water and waste disposal systems. These programs are important because they supply a number of growth opportunities to communities with improved utility facilities, increased job availability, and technology and educational resources. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development's Community Programs have awarded \$1.8 billion for these purposes, and touched the lives of more than 1.16 million households in the process.

USDA Rural Development strives to see that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Abilene Local Office at (325) 690-6162, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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